

**George Stephanopoulos:** I want to show some of the claims they identified in the [abstinence] curricula. One of them was one of the programs taught “The actual ability of condoms to prevent the transmission of HIV / AIDS, even if the product is intact, is not definitively known.” Another, “The popular claim that condoms help prevent the spread of STDs is not supported by the data.” A third suggested that tears and sweat could transmit HIV and AIDS. Now, you’re a doctor. Do you believe that tears and sweat can transmit HIV?

**Senator Bill Frist:** I don’t know. I can tell you...

**Stephanopoulos:** Well, wait, let me stop you, you don’t know that, you believe that tears and sweat might be able to transmit AIDS?

**Frist:** Yeah, no, I can tell you that HIV is not very transmissible as an element like, compared to smallpox, compared to the flu.

**Stephanopoulos:** ...Let me just clear this up, though. Do you or do you not believe that tears and sweat can transmit HIV?

**Frist:** It would be very hard. It would be very hard for tears and sweat, I mean, you can get the virus in tears and sweat but in terms of the degree of infecting somebody, it would be very hard.

**George Stephanopoulos:** I want to show some of the claims they identified in the [abstinence] curricula. One of them was one of the programs taught “The actual ability of condoms to prevent the transmission of HIV / AIDS, even if the product is intact, is not definitively known.” Another, “The popular claim that condoms help prevent the spread of STDs is not supported by the data.” A third suggested that tears and sweat could transmit HIV and AIDS. Now, you’re a doctor. Do you believe that tears and sweat can transmit HIV?

**Senator Bill Frist:** I don’t know. I can tell you...

**Stephanopoulos:** Well, wait, let me stop you, you don’t know that, you believe that tears and sweat might be able to transmit AIDS?

**Frist:** Yeah, no, I can tell you that HIV is not very transmissible as an element like, compared to smallpox, compared to the flu.

**Stephanopoulos:** ...let me just clear this up, though. Do you or do you not believe that tears and sweat can transmit HIV?

**Frist:** It would be very hard. It would be very hard for tears and sweat, I mean, you can get the virus in tears and sweat but in terms of the degree of infecting somebody, it would be very hard.

Office of Senator Bill Frist  
461 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4205

Office of Senator Bill Frist  
461 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4205